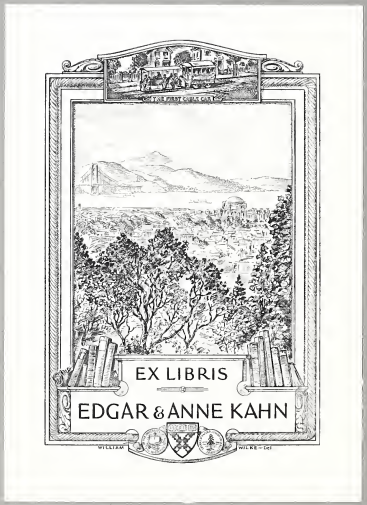
SAN FRANCISCO

SERENE
INDIFFERENT
and
BEAUTIFUL

SKETCHED BY
HAL J. BROTHERS

A.M. ROBERTSON PUBLISHER SAN FRANCISCO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UNION SQUARE — THE DEWEY MONUMENT

SAN FRANCISCO

SERENE
INDIFFERENT AND
BEAUTIFUL

SKETCHED IN PENCIL AND CRAYON BY
HAL. J. BROTHERS

WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY BY
FRANK MORTON TODD

SAN FRANCISCO
A. M. ROBERTSON
MCMXXIV

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"Serene, indifferent, of Fate,
Thou sittest at the Western Gate;
. . . . . .
Thou drawest all things, small or great,
To thee, beside the Golden Gate."

—Bret Harte

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SAN FRANCISCO

BORN a drowsy Spanish hamlet, fed on the intoxicants of a gold rush, developed by an adventurous commerce and a baronial agriculture, isolated throughout its turbulent history from the home lands of its diverse peoples and compelled to the outworking of its own ethical and social standards, San Francisco has evolved an individuality and a versatility beyond any other American city.

It mellowed the Puritan and disciplined the Cavalier. It appropriated the soul and art of the Latin. Every good thing that Anglo-Saxon, Celt, Gaul, Iberian, Teuton or Mongolian had to offer, it seized upon and made a part of its life.

San Francisco is today peculiarly the cosmopolitan city. Because its social elements are so near their equal sources, and opportunity still beckons every man of talent, it is also the democratic city. And in spiritual free-

dom and forward impulse and the vivid hope of great achievement, it is the one renaissance city of the present day. Here is no thraldom to the past, but a trying of all things on their merits, and a searching of every proposal or established institution by the one test: *Will it make life happier.*

The beauty and grandeur of San Francisco's location have delighted every visitor that has seen the region properly. With the possible exception of Constantinople, no other city has such a setting. It occupies the tip of a peninsula about six miles across, almost surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west, San Francisco bay on the east and northeast, and along the north the Golden Gate connecting the two.

The basin of San Francisco bay is a magnificent amphitheater rimmed with hills that rise here and there to mountain stature. In the bosom of this amphitheatre lies the bay, a gleaming sheet dotted with islands and shining sails, and crisscrossed by busy ferry boats and ploughed by stately ocean steamers or big square-riggers from "around the Horn". It is sixty-five miles long, from four to ten miles in width; and into it the great rivers of California, the Sacramento and the San Joaquin discharge the water that falls on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains and the east side of the Coast Range, and in the central valley section of the State, a

region four hundred miles long and from fifty to sixty miles across.

The Golden Gate is the outlet of this drainage area and the channel through which the tides ebb and flow between the bay and the ocean. It is about two and three quarter miles long and one and one quarter miles in width, and with its rolling blue water, its lighthouses, fortifications, islands and processions of majestic ships, is one of the inspiring scenes of the western continent. A great fleet of passenger and freight steamers move through it in a day. It is the only breach through the Coast Range mountains of California. Beyond the Golden Gate rise the huge bluffs and ridges of Marin County, their endless convolutions painted in subdued and harmonious earth colors. Up the ocean can be seen long points of land running westward and making other bays.

In San Francisco itself, at points almost providentially disposed, rise hills, from three hundred to over nine hundred feet in height, from whose summits superb panoramas of the city, bay and ocean open to the view.

How these vistas have impressed one of the most scholarly and discriminating of travelers appears in the oft-quoted statement of James Bryce, former British Ambassador to the United States, and author of the "American Commonwealth", who says:

"Few cities in the world can vie with San Francisco either in the beauty or in the natural advantages of her situation; indeed there are only two places in Europe, Constantinople and Gibralter, that combine an equally perfect landscape with what may be called an equally imperial position".

"The city itself is full of bold hills, rising steeply from the deep water. The air is keen, dry and bright, like the air of Greece, and the waters not less blue. Perhaps it is this air and light, recalling the cities of the Mediterranean, that make one involuntarily look up to the tops of these hills for the feudal castle or the ruins of the Acropolis, which one thinks must crown them".

San Francisco has one of the finest of climates, with comfortable and invigorating temperatures the year around. Stimulating sea breezes blow during the summer afternoons, insuring against heat, and usually falling in the evening, so that the nights are extremely pleasant—a condition that does a great deal to promote the outdoor night life of the city. Fogs are frequent, but instead of being dreaded are regarded as a cosmetic. The San Francisco complexion is celebrated. One never suffers here from heat or cold, and every night is cool enough to enable to sleep comfortably under blankets.

Alexander G. McAdie, in his book entitled "Clouds and Fogs of San Francisco", states: "Fog is San Fran-

cisco's greatest assest. . . . . It keeps the city cool in summer and thus makes for health; also it keeps the city warm in winter, preventing frosts and moderating the fall in temperature. . . . . San Franciscans love their fog, when away from the city they pine for it and especially during the summer. Not without reason do they appreciate the cooling effect of the fog. It enables one to sleep through summer nights and rise refreshed and ready for the day's requirements."

II

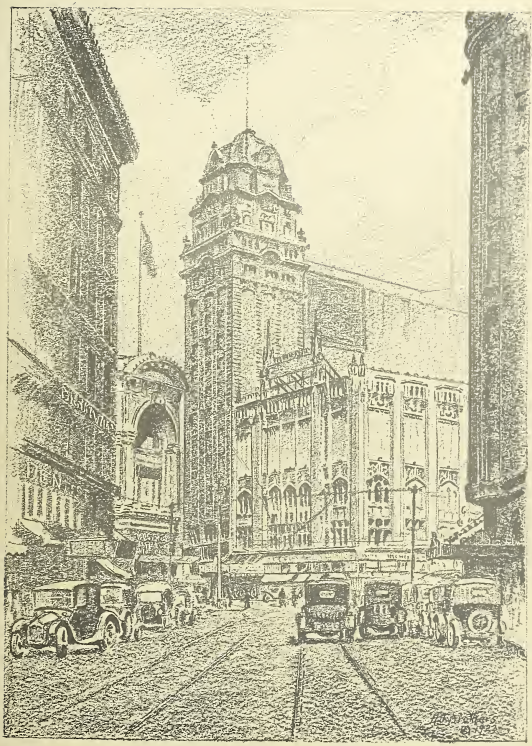
TO THE BAY FROM MARKET, KEARNY, GEARY AND THIRD

MARKET STREET WITH ITS FOUR LINES OF TRACKS, ONE OF THE BUSIEST STREETS IN THE WORLD. NO ENDLESS ROWS OF BOXLIKE STRUCTURES—BUT HERE AND THERE THE SKY LINE IS BROKEN BY HIGH BUILDINGS. A BRILLIANT PANORAMA OF LIFE, ENERGY AND ENJOYMENT.

III

MARKET, FOURTH, ELLIS AND STOCKTON STREETS

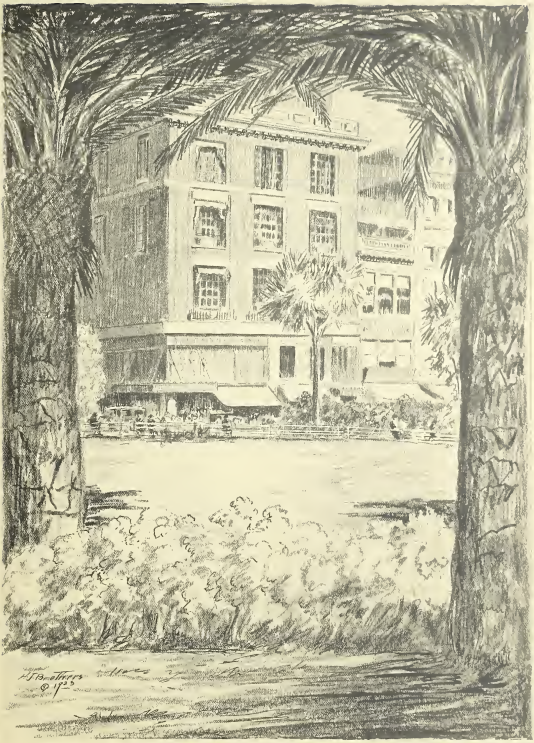
LOOKING DOWN ELLIS TO MARKET STREET. THE TALL DARK, GRACEFUL HUMBOLDT BANK BUILDING, UNLIKE ANY OTHER BUILDING IN THE WORLD, STANDS BESIDE A GOTHIC STRUCTURE IN OLD IVORY WHICH FOR A THEATRE IS UNIQUE. NO OTHER CITY IN AMERICA DISPLAYS SUCH INDIVIDUALITY AND TASTE AND SUCH HAPPY COMBINATIONS IN UTILITARIAN STRUCTURES.



IV

AROUND UNION SQUARE

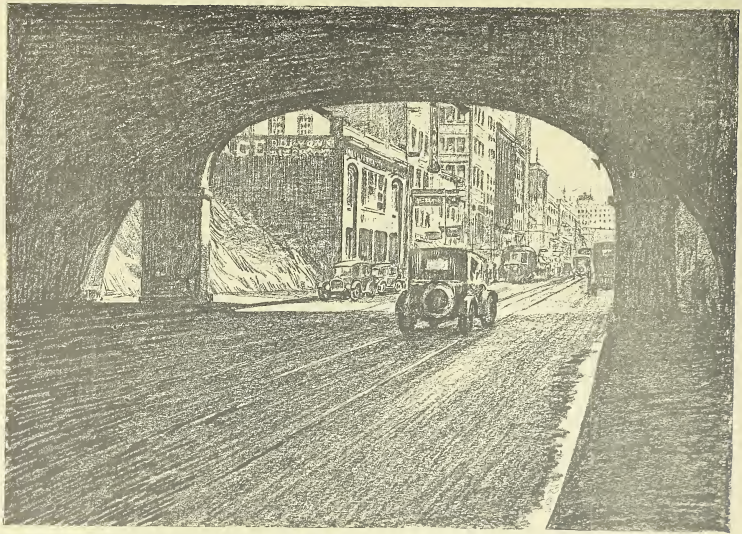
A GLIMPSE THROUGH THE PALMS ACROSS UNION SQUARE FROM POST STREET.



V

THROUGH THE STOCKTON STREET TUNNEL

FROM UNION SQUARE LOOKING UP STOCKTON STREET IS THE DARK MOUTH OF A TUNNEL. VIEW FROM INSIDE THE TUNNEL LOOKING DOWN STOCKTON STREET.



VI

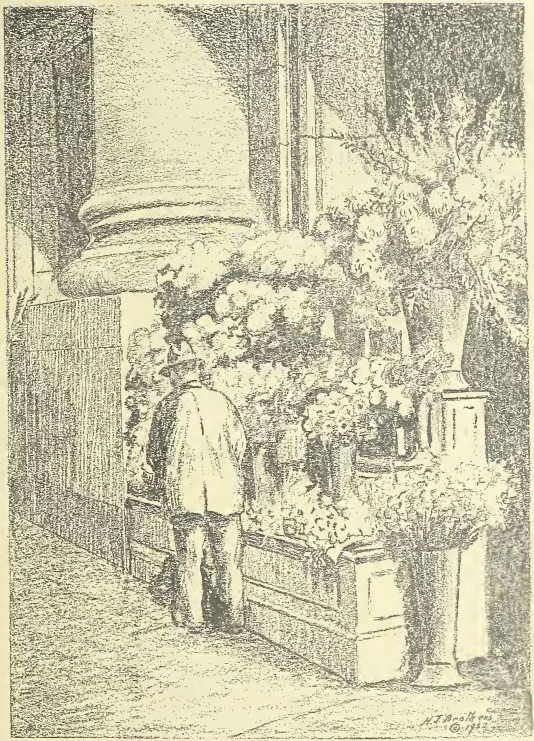
LOOKING DOWN CALIFORNIA STREET

UP AND UP CALIFORNIA STREET TO STOCKTON. LOOKING BACK ONE IS IMMEDIATELY AWARE OF THAT OTHER GREAT FEATURE OF SAN FRANCISCO — CONTRAST, FOR HERE LOOM UP THE BELLED, PICTURESQUE TOWERS OF CHINATOWN WITH THE TALL SEDATE MODERN BUILDINGS OF THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT AS A BACKGROUND.

VII

CORNER OF GRANT AVENUE AND MARKET STREET

WE ARE ATTRACTED IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT TO THE NUMEROUS FLOWER STALLS CONSTITUTING A VERITABLE FLOWER SHOW. THESE BRIGHT SPLASHES OF COLOR AGAINST THE BASE OF MASSIVE BUILDINGS, LIKE TROPIC ISLANDS BATHED IN GOLDEN SUNSHINE IN THE SEA OF TRAFFIC, ARE UNFORGETABLE.



VIII

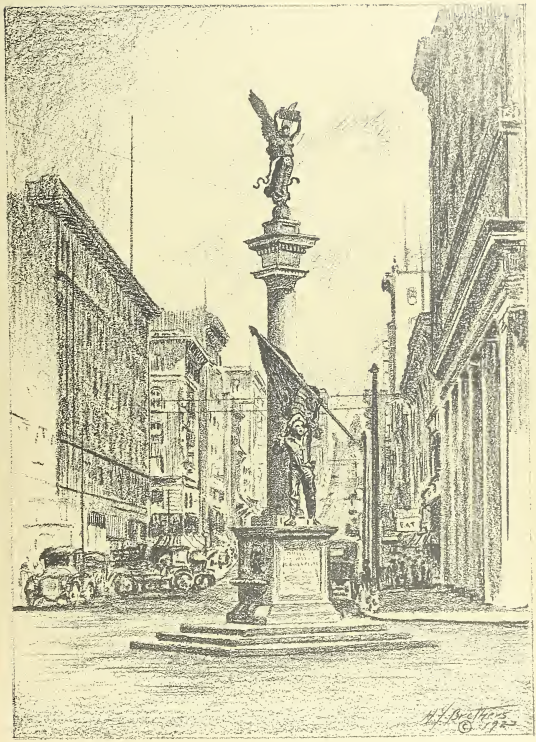
MT. DIABLO, OAKLAND, ALAMEDA AND BERKELEY FROM NOB HILL

FROM THE ROOF OF THE FAIRMONT HOTEL LOOKING EAST IS A WONDERFUL PANORAMA OF THE LOWER CITY AND THE BAY WITH HILLS BEYOND DOTTED WITH CITIES AND TOWNS. THE BAY IS ALWAYS DIFFERENT AND ALWAYS INCOMPARABLE IN ITS COLORING.

IX

AT MASON AND MARKET STREETS

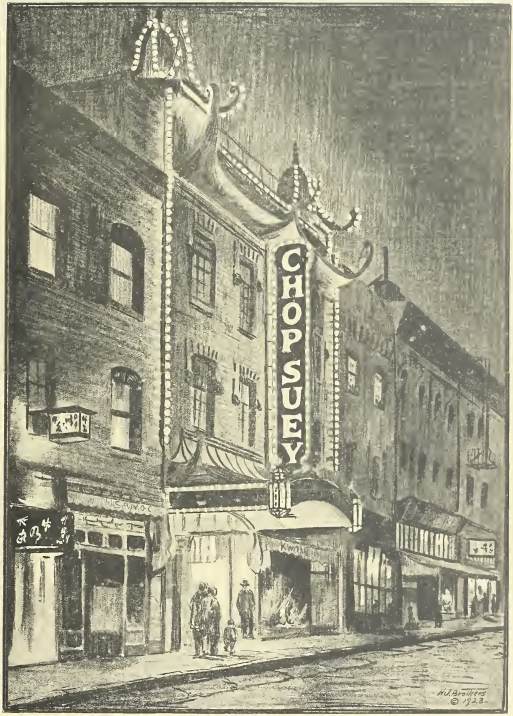
THE NATIVE SONS' MONUMENT IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE CITY'S CIVIC SCULPTURE. INSTEAD OF THE FIGURE OF THE NATIVE SON BEING ADORNED IN ALLEGORICAL STORE TROUSERS, IT HAS BUT TWO FIGURES SYMBOLICAL OF THE SPIRIT AND COURAGE OF THE PIONEERS WHO LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WEST.



X

NIGHT IN CHINATOWN

MAKING OUR WAY ALONG GRANT AVENUE WE PASS THROUGH CHINATOWN—A STRANGE MINGLING OF EAST AND WEST—THE FAMILIAR AND THE UNUSUAL. ONE SHOULD SEE CHINATOWN AT NIGHT TO GET ITS REAL CHARM, TO SENSE THE ORIENT EAST IN THE MIDST OF THE WEST OF TODAY.


CHOP SUEY
HJ Brulers
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XI

RUSSIAN HILL AND MT. TAMALPAIS

THE SLOPES OF RUSSIAN HILL ARE COVERED WITH BEAUTIFUL DWELLINGS WHICH STAND OUT IN SHARP RELIEF AGAINST THE BAY AND THE MARIN COAST BEYOND.

XII

VIEW FROM TELEGRAPH HILL

FROM TELEGRAPH HILL THERE ARE STRIKING VIEWS IN EVERY DIRECTION. RUSSIAN HILL, THE BAY AND OPPOSITE SHORE, THE SHIPPING. HERE IS THE MARVELOUS BEAUTY OF SAN FRANCISCO. ONE LOOKS DOWN ON A CITY IN A HOLLOW FILLED WITH BEWITCHING BLUE BUILDINGS, GIVING THE EFFECT OF A FAIRY CITY OF THE IMAGINATION.

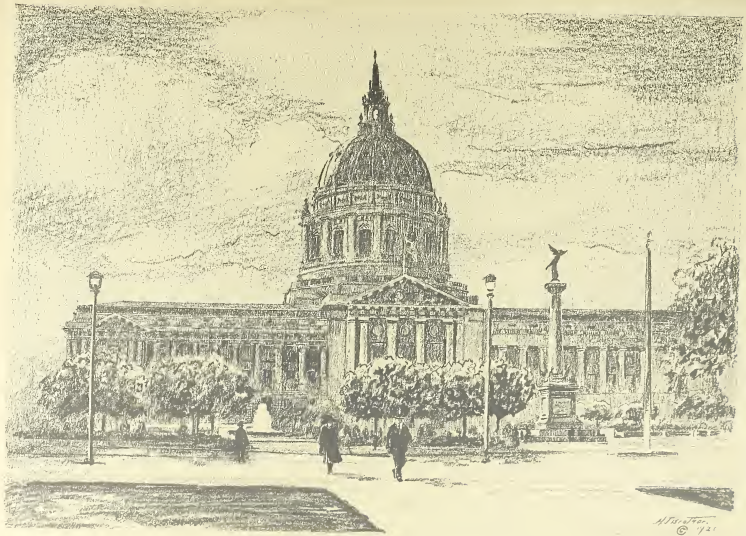
FINANCIAL SECTION

THE ARCHITECTURE HERE IS MASSIVE, DIGNIFIED, SIMPLE—BORROWING LITTLE OR NOTHING FROM THE PAST BUT ADEQUATELY EXPRESSING THE PRESENT.

XIV

THE HEART OF THE CITY

THE CIVIC CENTER IS QUIETLY BEAUTIFUL. THE CITY HALL IN PARTICULAR STANDS OUT FOR ITS SATISFYING DESIGN AND SETTING.



XV

ENTRANCE TO GOLDEN GATE PARK

THE PARK AT FELL AND STANYAN STREETS WITH THE TWIN SPIRES OF SAINT IGNATIUS CHURCH SOFTLY SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE SKY.

XVI

MISSION DOLORES

DOLORES MISSION, THE OLDEST AND MOST VENERABLE BUILDING IN SAN FRANCISCO—TAKES ONE BACK TO EARLIER TIMES AND PEOPLE.

XVII

THE MISSION DOLORES CEMETERY

THE MISSION DOLORES CEMETERY IS A QUIET SUNLIT SPOT OF FLOWERS, A FITTING RESTING PLACE FOR THE PIONEERS WHO HELPED TO MAKE THE STATE AND CITY.

XVIII

IN THE POTRERO MANUFACTURING DISTRICT

EVEN THE INDUSTRIAL SIDE OF THE CITY HAS CHARM. THE SUGAR MILL IS A PICTURESQUE PILE OF BUILDINGS WITH ITS VOLUMES OF SMOKE ALL REFLECTED IN THE QUIET WATERS OF THE FOREGROUND.

H J Ritter
© 1933

XIX

THE GOLDEN GATE

EVERYONE IS FAMILIAR WITH THE GOLDEN GATE BUT NOT SO MUCH WITH THIS VIEW WITH ANGEL ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE. THIS IS THE VIEW THOSE FIRST VOYAGERS HAD AS THEY SAILED INTO THE BAY.

XX

SUNSET FROM THE OCEAN SHORE

SEAL ROCKS, RUGGED AND DARK, STAND OUT IN SHARP RELIEF AGAINST THE PACIFIC OCEAN.